

REMARKS

Formalities

With this Amendment, Applicant adds new Claims 7 and 8. Therefore, Claims 1-8 are all the claims currently pending in the present Application.

The Examiner has acknowledged Applicant's claim for foreign priority and the receipt of the certified copy of the priority document. The Examiner has also returned a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-Form 1449 submitted with Applicant's IDS of July 21, 2004.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicates that Claims 2, 3, 5, and 6 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten into independent form including all the limitations of the claims from which they depend. Applicant respectfully requests that the rewriting of these claims be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Wayman, U.S. Patent No. 6,101,357 ("Wayman"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Wayman is directed to a developer unit and a developing method for a scavengerless developer system. (Abstract, col. 6, lns. 64-65). The Wayman system is scavengerless, and therefore, the developer of the toner system does not interact (contact) an image already formed on an image receiver. (Col. 6, ln. 64 to col. 7, ln. 2).

Applicant submits that Wayman fails to disclose or suggest applying a development bias to a developer carrying member where the development bias has a DC component and an AC

component comprising two superimposed waveforms. Regarding this limitation, the Examiner refers to DC voltage source 102 and AC voltage sources 103 and 104 as shown in Figure 8. However, while these three voltage sources combine to provide a voltage bias, the combined voltage bias *is not* provided to a developer carrying member, but rather to an electrode grid 42. (Figure 8, col. 4, lns. 49-52, col. 6). In contrast, the voltage applied to the donor roll 40 has only a single DC component from DC voltage source 92 and a single AC component from AC voltage source 96, and there is no disclosure or suggest that the AC component provided to the donor roll 40 is comprised of superimposed waveforms.

Therefore, in view of at least the above, Applicant submits that Wayman fails to anticipate Claims 1 and 4 and respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

New Claims

With this Amendment, Applicant adds new Claims 7 and 8 in order more fully to cover various aspects of Applicant's invention as disclosed in the specification. These new claims are fully supported in the original specification at least at page 6, lines 13-22.

Regarding the patentability of these claims over Wayman, Applicant submits that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence on Claims 1 and 4 and further because Wayman fails to disclose or suggest a development bias applied to a developer carrying member which controls a separation of a developer from an image carrying member and which controls a development of the developer on the image carrying member, as claimed. To the

contrary, Wayman shows an arrangement by which the bias applied to the electronic grid 42 or the bias applied to the donor roll 40 does not separate the toner on the belt from the belt 10.

Applicants respectfully request entry of new Claims 7 and 8.

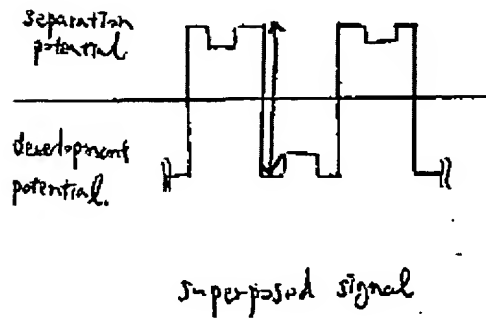
Additional Explanation

In addition to the above explanations regarding Claims 1, 4, 7, and 8, Applicant provides the following additional explanation in order to further the Examiner's understanding of the present invention as described at least at page 6, lines 1-22 of the specification. Applicant understands that the following explanation is not necessary for an understanding of the invention by one of skill in the art, but rather is merely for the added convenience of the Examiner.

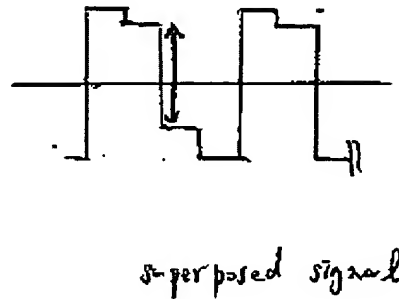
When a second frequency, to be superimposed on a first frequency, is an odd multiple of the first frequency, a first difference of potential in a phase from a separation potential to a development potential is equal to a second difference of potential in a phase from the development potential to the separation potential (see Explanatory Fig. A). Therefore, a developer can be controlled so as to avoid a biased state of the toner.

On the other hand, when the second frequency, to be superimposed on the first frequency, is an even multiple of the first frequency, a first difference of potential in a phase from a separation potential to a development potential is different from a second difference of potential in a phase from the development potential to the separation potential (see Explanatory Fig. B). In this case, the biased state of the toner occurs in the control of the developer.

Explanatory Fig. A



Explanatory Fig. B



Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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